

Quick Tips

- Use Tab Browsing in Safari for easier switching between pages. This works especially well when working on a WebQuest. (Thanks to Michael Richards for this tip.)
- Tired of dragging items to the trash to delete them? Try this: click once on the icon for the item you want to delete. Then hold down the Apple key and press the Delete key.
- Use a digital timer such as the voice activated *Chimoo* Timer (free download at www.versiontracker.com) to time activities and help kids stay on task.

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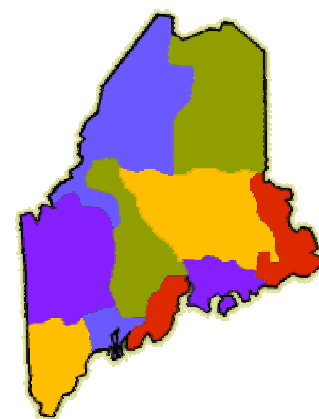
Fall Foliage

Take a break from your leaf peeping and peep at this month's MLTI Update...

MLTI Fall Regional Meetings

Members of the MLTI Team and Apple Computer have been trekking across Maine for the bi-annual Principal-Tech Coordinator-Teacher Leader Meetings.

With busy schedules and communication overload (emails, phone calls, hand-outs, "snail mail"), keeping current on changes and updates can be overwhelming. These face-to-face meetings have proven to be very beneficial for busy Leadership Teams in receiving and clarifying MLTI and Maine DOE updates as well as gaining insightful strategies, resources, and ideas for utilizing technology in education.



As the MLTI has progressed and grown, librarians/media specialists, technology integrators, and valuable members of a school's MLTI Leadership Team have also been encouraged to attend.

An important part of each meeting is the "Job Alike" session where principals meet with Bette Manchester; Teacher Leaders/librarians meet with RIMs and/or Jim Moulton; technology coordinators meet with Jeff Mao, Coordinator of Technology at DOE, and Doug Snow from Apple. These sessions are important for sharing concerns and problems as well as gathering solutions based on the experiences of the members of each group.

The agenda for this round of meetings focused on pursuing deeper work in classrooms. Participants read an article by Richard Murnane, Harvard Economist, (<http://www.maine.gov/mlti/docs>) and discussed it in their job-alike groups.

Updates discussed included the new Maine Repair Depot, professional development, leadership team goals, Project Based Learning/21st Century Skills, high school project, MEA online, and MEDMS.

Middle School Helping High School

Often the best support for teachers comes from other teachers. We learn from each other's failures as well as our successes.

With one-to-one computing coming to many high schools across the state, teachers who are new to teaching with technology will be looking for experienced teachers who can model best practices. The best place to look for these

models may be as close as their local middle school. Middle school teachers now have one or two years of experience in laptop classrooms and most are quite willing to share their expertise.

Jim Moulton has written an insightful article for *MaineLearns* about ways high school and middle school teachers can provide support for each other as they make the transition to 21st century teaching and learning with technology.



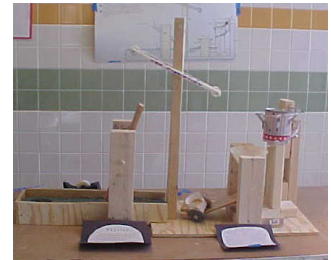
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Rube Goldberg Contraptions in Poland

According to *Wikipedia*, a Rube Goldberg machine is "any exceedingly complex apparatus that performs a very simple task in a very indirect and convoluted way." Science students at the Bruce M. Whittier Middle School in Poland had fun creating Rube Goldberg contraptions to show what they had learned about simple machines. They also used their laptops to create videos and web pages to share their knowledge with the whole world.

Last fall, the school received an *Innovative Idea Grant* from National

Semiconductor to help fund their *Simple Machines Go Live!* project. Some of the money



was used to purchase a new G 5 video streaming server that would enable the school to include student-made videos on its web site. These videos provide clear explanations of how simple machines work as well as showing the students' Rube Goldberg contraptions.

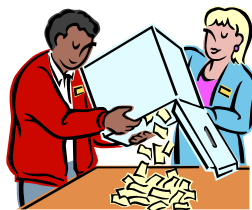
Visit the Featured Profile section of *MaineLearns* to read more about this project.



[Click on Featured Profile](#)

The Morning After...

On the morning of November 3, we hope to know who has won and who has lost the races for President, Congress and local officials, as well as which of the referendum questions were passed. Many teachers have been taking advantage of the "teachable moment that the presidential elections provide and have used the Internet to help students make sense of it all.



But our political discussions shouldn't stop on Election Day. There will be much to discuss the day after the elections. Jim Moulton has written an article with suggestions for discussing the outcome of the elections and links to Web resources that will stimulate conversations. Following these links will give students a good overview of how the election results are perceived locally, nationally, and around the world.

To read Jim's article, go to *MaineLearns* and click on *What Works*.



[Click on What Works](#)

New Tutorials

We all need help now and then and the MLTI team is in the business of helping. We often receive requests for written how-to directions for using MLTI hardware and software and, as time allows, we oblige.

Recently we've added some new documents to the Tutorial section of *MaineLearns*, including *Giving Feedback Electronically*, *File Management*. Coming soon are tutorials for using



[Click on Tutorials](#)



iPhoto to resize pictures and to create a web page of photos with thumbnails that link to full images.

Most of the tutorials on MaineLearns are documents that you can download and print. If the tutorial is available as an MS Word document, you can download it, open it in Word or AppleWorks and edit it for use with your students.

SEED Adaptor Grants

October 29 is the deadline for applications for the latest round of SEED (Spreading Educator to Educator Developments) Adaptor Grants.

Adaptors are teachers who wish to use one of the lessons from the SEED catalog (a SEED Packet) in their own classrooms and need funding to help implement it. SEED will award \$500 to each successful applicant.

Information about the application process can be found on the SEED Web Site at <http://seed.mainecenter.org/application/index.cfm>



[Click on link on the front page](#)

Successful applicants will not only receive funding for the project, but also will contact and receive support from the teacher who developed the packet. This is the only opportunity teachers will have this school year to receive funding from SEED, but the packets will remain on the Web site for teachers to download and use at any time. If you're looking for a technology-rich unit, aligned with MLR, check out the SEED site.



GIS Day

Maine Office of GIS will again host an event at the Hall of Flags on GIS Day, which is Wednesday, November 17 year. This years'

event will focus exclusively on GIS in Education.

The Maine Office of GIS is issuing a call for exhibitors (teachers/students who are currently using GIS in the classroom), and an



invitation to those who would like to learn more about the use of GIS in the classroom. They will also be featuring information about a new version of *ArcExplorer* that is JAVA-based and will run under OSX; this software is currently available and is the focus of ongoing development by ESRI to enable it with functionality that teachers need. The event will run from 9am - 2 pm, with set up for exhibitors beginning at 8 am.

For further information, or to register as an exhibitor, contact Bridgit Kirouac at the Maine Office of GIS, bridgit.kirouac@maine.gov.



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MLTI Update

Published Monthly
by the MLTI Staff

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Read MLTI Update online!

<http://www.mainelearns.org>



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Kudos to...

... **Leigh Grass** from Central Aroostook Jr-Sr High School in Mars Hill on being awarded a Toshiba America Foundation science grant for her water quality project.

The Evolution of the Student



Quote of the Month

One's mind, once stretched by a new idea,
never regains its original dimensions

Oliver Wendell Holmes

Barbara's and Kelly's Favorites

Here are **Kelly's** favorites for October

Moodle at <http://moodle.org/> is a free, open source course management system. I'm just beginning to explore this tool. It could be worth a look for those of you trying to do more work with kids online. If you want to know more about *Moodle*, go to the site and create a free account. This will give you access to a demo of *Moodle's* features and a "Teachers' Hands-on Playground" where you can give it a try. The Moodle Buzz link takes you to a page with links to reviews and articles about the software.

Mooter.com, <http://www.mooter.com/> is an Internet search engine that groups its results in webbed categories that stem out from the original search. This is a great tool for kids who need a visual sorting guide. The clusters are subtopics that students can choose to help narrow their search. Clicking on a cluster brings up a list of relative links. If none of the clusters is useful, the student can click on the "next clusters" link for another list. The interface is clean, simple, and very user-friendly.

Next Month: Barbara's Favorites.